

488116/4:27/16

Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 16

April 17, 1956

Week ended April 14

	Page
Livestock Market Reviews.	310
Livestock Market Receipts	312
Feeder and Stocker Statistics	312
Steer Sale Statistics	313
Estimated Slaughter and Meat Production	314
Slaughter at Major Centers.	315
Estimated Percentage of Feeder and Stocker Cattle and Slaughter Cows in Salable Receipts.	315
Cattle Prices	316
Hog Prices	317
Hog Purchase Statistics	318
Sheep and Lamb Prices	319
Wholesale Meat Trade Reviews.	320
Wholesale Meat Prices	322
Wool Market Review	323

Special to this issue

Federally Inspected Slaughter by Regions, March 1956.	319
Meat and Meat Food Products Processed and Canned under Federal Inspection, March 4-31, 1956.	324
Storage Holdings of Meats and Lard, March 31, 1956. .	326
Cattle on Feed, April 1, 1956	327
Stocker and Feeder Cattle and Sheep Received in Several Corn Belt States, March 1956.	329

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.



MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle receipts at the 12 markets were of about the same volume as those of the previous week. Demand for fed steers was less urgent than in the two previous weeks, however, and prices showed a declining trend. At Chicago and Omaha where receipts increased, late prices on steers were steady to \$1.00 lower. Trend at other midwest markets was mainly steady to 50¢ off. Heifers were lower at a few markets, steady to 50¢ higher at others, while cows sold mostly steady to 50¢ lower, instances 75¢-\$1.00 off. Stocker and feeder trade was fairly active with prices little changed. Hog prices turned lower for the first time in seven weeks, reflecting to some extent sluggishness in the wholesale fresh pork trade. Slaughter lamb supply was reduced but demand was not as broad as during the previous week and late prices were mostly steady to 50¢ lower at midwest terminals.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Price trend on fed steers at midwest markets was steady to \$1.00 lower for the week. Trade was quite uneven at the different markets, however, due in part to irregular distribution of receipts, both at the various terminals and in the aggregate throughout the week. Monday's 12-market run of nearly 105,000 was largest since late February and prices dropped sharply following two week's of stronger trends. The next day's run was smallest for a Tuesday in about two months and prices held steady to strong. While the week's aggregate run at 12 markets showed little change from that of the previous week, receipts at Chicago and Omaha were larger than a week earlier, and fed steers closed at those centers steady to \$1.00 lower. Sharpest decline at Chicago was on high-Choice and Prime offerings, while at Omaha, where an additionally depressing factor was the absence of a major packer from the trade for the second straight week due to labor trouble, most pressure was on high-Good and Choice. At other midwest markets where receipts were generally smaller than the previous week, supply and demand were more evenly matched and late steer prices were steady to 50¢ lower, high-Choice and Prime firm at Sioux City with most early sharp declines fully recovered at St. Louis National Stock Yards. Supply of heifers at Omaha increased and late prices there and at St. Joseph showed weakness, with trend at other points mainly steady to 50¢ higher. Cows closed 50¢-\$1.00 lower at Chicago, bulk at other midwest centers steady to 50¢ off. Bulls sold unevenly 50¢ lower to \$1.00 higher; vealers and calves largely steady to \$1.00 off.

Prime steers and offerings grading below Good made up only a relatively small percent of the beef steers at most markets for which such data are available. Good and Choice made up 88.5% at Chicago and more than 90% at Omaha and Sioux City. Average weights of beef steers at Chicago and Omaha were 9 to 10 pounds lighter than a week earlier. Slaughter of 1,565,971 cattle under Federal inspection in March established a new record for the month.

Good to high-Prime steers sold at Chicago from \$17.00-26.50, a spread of \$9.50 a cwt. Good and Choice bulked there from \$17.00-21.25, with majority of the same grades at other midwest terminals from \$17.00-20.50. At Omaha high-Choice and Prime 1511# steers brought \$22.00, a load of Prime 1119# \$24.25, and a load of high-Prime exceptionally high-yielding 1310# steers reached \$26.00, highest there since last April. A load of Prime 1318# steers brought \$24.00 at Sioux City, a scattering high-Choice and Prime at other centers from \$20.50-22.50.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Moderate receipts of stocker and feeder cattle and calves arrived at terminal markets. Volume showed little change from that of the previous week but fell short of a year ago, especially on calves. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 17,351, compared with 15,342 a week earlier and 19,526 a year ago. Outgo of calves totaled 4,621 compared with 4,437 a week ago and 8,270 a year ago. A fairly large percent of the week's receipts consisted of

500-700# yearling stock steers. Good to Choice grades predominated but relatively few graded better than average-Choice. Stock calves were in limited supply and only a moderate number of feeder steers was offered. Feeder buyers purchased a moderate proportion of the fleshy two-way steers, but even so, shipments of steers 800# up to the country were materially below a year ago. At Kansas City, Illinois buyers purchased 50 percent of the feeder steers averaging over 800#. The price relationship between stockers and feeders and fat cattle has gradually worked toward a more normal basis than earlier this year. The advances in fat cattle prices from last winter's lows have encouraged renewed interest in feedlot replacements. At the same time, recent rains and snows over many of the areas which had been suffering from insufficient moisture brightened prospects for spring and summer pasture. Consequently, trading generally was fairly active on most all classes at steady prices, instances mildly stronger. One of the very few instances of a weaker trend was at Sioux City where prices were ruled steady to 50¢ lower. This was probably more of an effort at realignment with other markets rather than due to other factors, since that market was one of the few to show a materially stronger trend the previous week. Good and Choice yearling stock steers sold largely from \$16.00-20.50, few \$21.00. Choice steer calves sold upward to \$21.50, but high-Choice calves were virtually lacking. Good and Choice feeder steers 800# up brought \$16.50-19.25, those above \$18.50 usually being fairly fleshy. Choice, partly fattened 875# steers sold to a finisher at \$20.00. Good and Choice stock heifers, both yearlings and calves, sold mainly from \$15.50-18.00, few calves upward to \$19.00.

HOGS

Combined receipts of salable hogs at the 12 terminal markets and in the Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota area were a little smaller than those of the previous week but moderately larger than a year ago. Numbers at terminal markets were relatively more liberal than those in the Interior. Shippers purchased a moderately large volume at terminal centers but in the Interior, shipping demand was poorest in some time. Hog prices reflected the slow, mostly steady to lower trend in the wholesale fresh pork trade, and butchers and sows registered the first weekly downturn since late February. Compared with the previous Friday, butchers closed weak to 75¢ lower, mostly 25-50¢ off, sows mainly steady to 25¢ lower. U. S. No. 1 and 2 butchers, particularly weights 220# down, were in good demand and frequently drew 25-75¢ higher prices than mixed No. 2 and 3 lots of comparable weight. Otherwise, majority of sales covered a relatively narrow spread. Receipts in the Interior were smallest since last September and butchers there closed largely 10-15¢ lower. Slaughter of 6,326,637 hogs under Federal inspection in March was more than 20% larger than the past five-year March average and with the exception of 1944, was largest of record for the month.

Stocker and feeder pigs were steady to 50¢ higher at S. St. Paul, Good and Choice cashing from \$12.50-14.00. At Sioux City prices were fully 50¢ lower, most Good and Choice 120-150# feeders selling from \$12.50-13.00, few \$13.25. Medium and Good 70-140# feeders sold about steady at Memphis, largely from \$9.50-12.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Slaughter lamb prices tended lower at most midwest terminals even though 12-market receipts were the smallest in five weeks and 22% smaller than a year ago. Trading on lambs was uneven, with the general trend steady to 50¢ lower. At S. St. Paul, however, where last week's late trade was under considerable pressure, closing prices were steady to 50¢ higher, the advance on shorn lambs. On the other hand, spring lambs closed mostly \$1.50 lower at Ft. Worth. Slaughter ewes were steady to 25¢ lower while prices of other classes sold mostly steady. In the Southwest, spring lambs were in fairly liberal supply, but at most midwest markets old crop offerings predominated. Good to Prime woolled lambs sold largely at \$18.00-20.75, a few loads \$21.00-22.00. A few Good lambs along with some extremely heavy Choice offerings sold down to \$17.00. Cull to low-Good lambs brought \$10.00-19.00. Good to Prime spring lambs sold at \$18.00-23.25. Shorn lambs of

Continued on page 330.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Apr. 14	Apr. 16	Apr. 14	Apr. 16	Apr. 14	Apr. 16	Apr. 14	Apr. 16
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Chicago.....	43,653	39,696	1,540	1,966	44,570	46,283	5,254	10,142
Cincinnati.....	3,958	4,151	1,319	1,302	16,618	13,457	168	321
Denver.....	12,810	14,372	699	1,318	2,900	2,365	17,806	20,195
Fort Worth.....	3,932	8,900	1,436	1,715	3,235	2,054	20,840	28,572
Indianapolis.....	8,646	9,274	1,185	1,408	46,574	49,087	1,199	866
Kansas City.....	19,545	23,126	1,126	1,702	12,488	9,057	10,415	8,115
Oklahoma City.....	11,716	9,696	987	1,135	4,339	2,713	1,760	2,759
Omaha.....	37,495	38,783	916	743	36,205	40,910	10,107	15,701
St. Joseph.....	13,920	14,584	820	729	27,310	25,537	5,399	3,765
St. Louis NSY.....	18,655	16,510	3,621	3,598	66,838	50,166	2,381	3,562
Sioux City.....	16,582	21,179	286	487	28,064	30,203	2,653	7,873
S. St. Paul.....	22,251	21,377	10,028	9,679	50,303	46,727	6,489	6,510
Total.....	218,163	221,648	23,963	25,782	339,444	318,559	84,471	108,381
Apr. 7, 1956	219,833		24,331		321,606		90,996	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Apr. 14, 1956	304,500	24,700
Apr. 7, 1956	336,000	28,400
Apr. 16, 1955	289,000	28,900

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Three months	
	Apr. 12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	Apr. 14 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Jan.-Mar. 1956	Jan.-Mar. 1955
Steers - 1001# up	665	322	820	1,486	3,143	4,877	7,285
901-1000	1,469	925	2,995	6,303	9,474	17,911	26,287
801-900	2,364	1,684	3,652	10,939	14,470	37,321	40,641
701-800	3,242	3,035	2,913	13,421	13,787	41,770	42,279
501-700	9,611	9,376	9,146	39,354	45,607	106,587	116,535
Total steers 10 mkts.	17,351	15,342	19,526	71,503	86,481	208,466	233,027
Av. wts. " " "	701#	687#	739#	702#	716#	711#	719#
Av. cost* " " "	\$17.54	\$17.35	\$20.70	\$16.82	\$20.41	\$16.67	\$20.00
" " " Chicago	18.56	18.22	21.16	17.22	20.18	16.97	20.07
" " " Ks. City	17.99	17.83	21.15	17.44	21.28	17.20	20.75
" " " Omaha	17.58	16.96	21.05	16.66	20.54	16.47	19.97
" " " S. St. Paul	17.11	16.48	19.04	15.59	18.65	15.20	17.98
" " " Sioux City	18.02	17.98	20.59	17.49	20.89	16.93	20.40
" " " Denver	17.64	17.98	20.61	16.02	21.26	17.30	21.92
" " " Ft. Worth	17.07	16.97	19.28	16.33	19.83	16.31	19.06
" " " Okla. City	16.43	16.21	20.53	16.18	19.97	16.27	19.18
" " " S. St. Joseph	17.35	16.77	19.33	16.65	20.28	16.46	19.78
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.65	16.99	20.20	16.16	18.96	16.15	18.76
Total calves-10 mkts.	4,621	4,437	8,270	19,304	30,435	72,375	95,561
" cows.							
heifers, bulls- " "	3,633	2,632	4,313	11,143	15,810	34,968	46,467

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

313

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	1735	1686	600	5.8	6.0	2.6	1284	1282	1242	23.32	23.85	28.40
Choice	17224	15827	13440	58.3	56.0	57.6	1193	1202	1128	20.58	20.84	24.90
Good	8927	8700	7199	30.2	30.8	30.9	1049	1073	994	18.19	18.52	21.55
Com'l.	1497	1920	1764	5.1	6.7	7.6	982	997	976	15.63	15.98	18.30
Utility	167	150	315	.6	.5	1.3	1011	990	975	14.07	14.05	15.75
All grades	29550	28283	23318				1143	1152	1076	19.85	20.06	23.48
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	98	160	60	.6	1.0	.3	1276	1234	1198	23.62	23.17	26.94
Choice	10077	9619	8239	60.8	59.6	47.8	1165	1179	1116	19.36	19.58	23.78
Good	5329	5224	6959	32.1	32.3	40.4	1035	1037	1016	17.65	17.89	21.45
Com'l.	799	823	1654	4.8	5.1	9.6	994	1012	954	15.40	15.71	18.40
Utility	283	322	333	1.7	2.0	1.9	890	966	870	13.63	13.98	16.03
All grades	16586	16148	17245				1111	1121	1055	18.63	18.84	22.30
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	202	249	--	4.2	2.7	--	1361	1335	--	22.33	21.95	--
Choice	2991	5827	3289	62.6	63.0	40.8	1184	1186	1149	19.61	19.87	24.11
Good	1397	2758	3888	29.3	29.8	48.3	1045	1063	1074	17.52	17.86	21.90
Com'l.	146	305	703	3.1	3.4	8.7	994	999	1016	15.22	15.65	18.48
Utility	39	106	174	.8	1.1	2.2	1105	950	1040	13.98	13.92	15.78
All grades	4775	9245	8054				1144	1145	1099	19.03	19.20	22.44
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	60	47	20	.9	.1	.4	1310	1290	1200	21.03	21.80	26.75
Choice	2952	2659	1557	44.2	40.1	34.2	1118	1109	1107	19.50	19.92	23.85
Good	2883	3079	2410	43.2	47.0	52.9	1050	1050	1026	18.00	18.28	21.69
Com'l.	634	714	533	9.5	10.8	11.7	1058	1016	943	15.72	16.12	18.46
Utility	144	124	39	2.2	2.0	.8	1045	931	959	14.35	14.24	15.59
All grades	6673	6623	4559				1083	1069	1044	18.43	18.70	22.10
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	20	--	8	.3	--	.2	1154	--	1139	22.50	--	27.88
Choice	1939	1890	487	27.4	28.4	10.2	1090	1105	1070	19.12	19.42	24.40
Good	2986	3181	2892	42.2	47.8	60.6	1010	1010	995	17.62	17.86	22.08
Com'l.	1885	1400	1234	26.7	21.1	25.8	950	959	941	16.48	15.99	19.44
Utility	237	178	155	3.4	2.7	3.2	892	907	785	14.04	14.10	16.69
All grades	7067	6649	4776				1012	1023	982	17.69	17.88	21.55
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	79	35	42	1.2	.5	.7	1227	1214	1268	21.08	21.02	26.61
Choice	3163	3406	3088	49.0	50.0	48.2	1128	1148	1111	19.55	19.68	24.06
Good	2386	2497	2743	37.1	36.7	42.8	1046	1026	1015	17.84	17.86	21.29
Com'l.	758	792	381	11.7	11.6	5.9	990	975	946	15.86	15.75	17.85
Utility	67	84	150	1.0	1.2	2.4	857	895	930	13.64	13.88	15.56
All grades	6453	6814	6404				1080	1080	1057	18.51	18.58	22.43

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955	12 1956	Apr. 5 1956	14 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	--	--	24	--	--	.5	--	--	1054	--	--	26.00
Choice	2984	4601	3778	66.1	71.8	85.7	1150	1137	1089	19.57	19.90	24.15
Good	1358	1556	468	30.1	24.3	10.6	1045	1068	1070	18.17	18.47	20.61
Com'l.	75	141	141	1.7	2.2	3.2	1039	950	1031	15.99	15.77	16.99
Utility	94	107	--	2.1	1.7	--	961	1046	--	13.88	14.11	--
All grades	4511	6405	4411				1113	1115	1085	19.02	19.40	23.57

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Num- ber	Prod.	Num- ber	Prod.	Num- ber	Prod.	Num- ber	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.		
Apr. 14, 1956	352	195.4	146	16.4	1,168	154.2	282	13.5	379.5	42.0
Apr. 7, 1956	351	196.6	149	15.6	1,211	159.6	254	12.4	384.2	42.4
Mar. 31, 1956 ^{1/}	340	188.7	144	15.1	1,245	163.6	278	13.6	381.0	44.9
Apr. 16, 1955	327	175.3	143	15.4	1,060	146.6	265	12.7	350.0	37.6
Percentage change from:										
Apr. 7, 1956	0	-1	-2	+5	-4	-3	+11	+9	-1	-1
Apr. 16, 1955	+8	+11	+2	+6	+10	+5	+ 6	+6	+8	+12

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Apr. 14, 1956	1,005	555	200	112	234	132	100	48	15.4
Apr. 7, 1956	1,010	560	190	105	232	132	103	49	15.1
Mar. 31, 1956	1,005	555	190	105	231	131	105	49	14.7
Apr. 16, 1955	969	536	194	108	243	138	99	48	14.6

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs		
	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.
	14	16	16	14	14	16	14	16	14	14	16	16
	1956	1955	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1955
Boston, New York City Area	13,598	8,696		11,582	10,117		53,886	45,732	47,331	36,853		
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,877	6,563		1,289	965		27,721	21,183	2,976	1,869		
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	18,089	15,554		8,761	7,062		92,749	80,111	12,912	11,034		
Chicago Area	23,984	23,415		6,569	6,863		53,313	62,828	4,271	7,115		
St. Paul-Wis Areas	31,418	28,072		33,723	33,838		93,126	86,730	9,318	11,814		
St. Louis Area	15,036	13,616		5,009	5,811		86,441	72,221	6,398	8,824		
Sioux City	6,835	7,636		103	1		20,356	12,710	3,757	5,138		
Omaha Area	29,118	29,099		652	757		56,699	60,078	10,921	17,261		
Kansas City	13,603	13,452		2,320	3,502		30,286	26,806	10,096	14,427		
Iowa-So. Minnesota	28,379	24,687		12,105	12,634		269,009	236,403	28,315	29,080		
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	7,977	9,037		6,877	8,489		46,651	45,690	Not available			
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,170	6,709		2,979	3,338		28,471	22,944	--	--		
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	18,447	18,297		3,499	3,143		52,671	43,841	18,895	15,707		
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	14,765	17,708		6,085	6,752		22,480	18,466	21,914	24,999		
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	17,228	15,526		806	753		13,362	13,965	31,398	14,822		
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	27,903	25,489		2,798	3,868		26,702	29,476	33,777	30,820		
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,159	6,690		363	568		16,561	12,869	3,717	4,083		
Total	287,586	270,246		105,520	108,461		990,484	892,053	245,996	233,846		
Accumulation to date	4,447,380	4,138,430		1,564,761	1,561,582		18,112,215	15,186,254	3,709,599	3,615,194		

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Kansas			Chicago			St. Louis			St. Joseph			St. Paul			Indianapolis			Fort Worth			Oklahoma City			Wichita			San Antonio		
	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.
	13, 1956	6, 1956	15, 1955	13, 1956	10, 1956	13, 1955	11, 1956	10, 1956	12, 1956	10, 1956	11, 1956	12, 1956	13, 1956	14, 1956	15, 1956	16, 1956	17, 1956	18, 1956	19, 1956	20, 1956	21, 1956	22, 1956	23, 1956	24, 1956	25, 1956	26, 1956	27, 1956	28, 1956	29, 1956	30, 1956
Feeder and stockers	3	4	4	28	37	42	11	10	10	10	11	11	12	13	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Slaughter cows	7	6	12	11	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Accumulation to date	4,447,380	4,138,430	1,564,761	1,561,582	1,564,761	1,561,582	18,112,215	15,186,254	3,709,599	3,615,194	245,996	233,846	18,895	21,914	31,398	33,777	30,820	4,083	245,996	233,846	3,709,599	3,615,194	245,996	233,846	18,895	21,914	31,398	33,777	30,820	4,083

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16
	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	24.30	24.35	29.55	22.75	23.00	27.50	23.80	24.00	27.62
1100-1300	24.50	24.85	30.30	22.50	22.80	27.80	23.68	24.00	28.20
Choice 900-1100	21.10	21.58	25.58	20.15	20.52	24.50	20.45	20.75	24.62
1100-1300	20.95	21.45	25.58	20.05	20.52	24.50	20.22	20.68	24.70
Good 900-1100	18.08	18.42	21.50	17.52	17.95	20.98	17.22	17.50	21.32
Com'l. All wts.	15.50	15.80	18.10	15.62	15.92	17.80	15.12	15.50	18.50
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	19.38	19.20	23.50	19.25	19.52	22.50	19.25	19.32	22.82
Good 500-900	17.30	17.26	20.62	17.18	17.36	19.70	16.88	17.25	20.05
Com'l. All wts.	14.85	15.00	17.88	15.00	15.25	16.90	14.75	15.00	16.75
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	13.20	13.50	14.65	12.75	13.00	13.72	12.68	13.20	14.25
Utility	11.95	12.30	12.88	12.00	12.25	12.20	11.60	12.08	12.25
Canner & Cutter	10.65	11.22	11.00	11.00	11.25	10.32	10.35	10.75	10.00
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.10	13.00	14.00	--	--	--	13.10	12.88	13.00
Utility & Commercial	15.45	15.32	15.66	13.62	13.62	14.00	14.19	13.79	14.10
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	24.50	23.50	25.40	20.60	22.00	21.30	21.00	21.00	22.50
Com'l. & Good	19.00	18.50	19.70	17.30	18.00	17.00	16.50	16.50	17.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	20.50	20.50	21.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.75	15.75	16.50	15.00	15.50	15.70	15.00	15.00	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.75	19.70	23.65	19.50	19.50	23.38	19.50	19.50	23.25
Good " "	17.25	17.15	20.88	17.25	17.25	20.75	17.25	17.25	20.50
Medium 500-1000	15.50	15.45	17.62	15.25	15.25	17.50	14.50	14.50	17.75
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	17.25	17.20	19.75	17.00	17.00	19.50	17.38	17.38	19.25
Med. & Gd. " "	14.50	14.50	16.25	14.50	14.50	16.25	14.25	14.25	16.00
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	12.00	12.00	11.85	11.75	11.75	12.12
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.65	19.75	19.75	22.50	20.50	20.50	22.50
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	19.50	16.88	16.88	19.00	17.00	17.25	19.62

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16
	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1 160-180#	13.95	14.55	16.75	12.98	13.17	15.70	13.80	13.88	16.85
2 and 3 180-200	15.18	15.36	17.72	14.53	14.71	16.98	15.09	15.42	17.70
200-220	15.40	15.60	17.72	14.92	15.11	17.23	15.22	15.52	17.60
220-240	15.39	15.58	17.61	14.63	14.81	17.13	15.05	15.52	17.40
240-270	15.06	15.35	17.24	14.22	14.40	16.64	14.88	15.02	16.75
270-300	14.75	15.02	16.84	13.74	13.95	16.05	14.28	14.60	16.22
Sows -									
300-330#	13.90	13.82	16.02	13.37	13.55	15.37	13.52	13.50	15.15
360-400	13.20	13.25	15.50	12.87	13.06	14.88	13.00	13.00	14.88
450-550	12.28	12.45	14.45	11.78	12.05	13.75	11.60	11.55	14.15
Pigs (stocker and feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Classification	Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16
	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1 160-180#	--	--	--	14.52	14.88	17.48	--	--	--
2 and 3 180-200	15.10	15.62	17.82	14.98	15.48	17.68	14.94	15.46	17.48
200-220	15.10	15.62	17.82	15.10	15.52	17.67	15.08	15.65	17.52
220-240	15.10	15.62	17.68	15.06	15.50	17.52	15.08	15.56	17.45
240-270	14.75	15.25	17.12	14.78	15.26	17.08	14.80	15.25	17.00
270-300	14.20	14.78	16.25	14.42	14.76	16.65	13.98	14.58	16.25
Sows -									
300-330#	13.35	13.78	15.62	13.30	13.35	15.48	13.48	13.82	15.62
360-400	12.80	13.30	15.00	12.90	12.98	15.22	12.82	13.40	14.90
450-550	11.92	12.35	14.25	12.10	12.10	14.48	11.82	12.42	13.85
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Classification	S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16
	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1 160-180#	14.18	14.45	17.52	15.34	15.81	18.22	16.50	16.81	19.50
2 and 3 180-200	15.32	15.62	17.58	15.91	16.31	18.56	16.75	17.38	20.12
200-220	15.32	15.60	17.58	15.91	16.31	18.56	16.75	17.38	20.12
220-240	15.25	15.60	17.35	15.69	16.12	18.16	16.50	16.91	19.75
240-270	14.92	15.25	16.75	15.19	15.62	17.59	15.50	15.94	19.00
270-300	13.95	14.25	16.12	14.06	13.81	16.81	14.88	15.62	18.38
Sows -									
300-330#	13.08	13.20	15.32	11.94	12.00	15.81	13.50	14.00	16.75
360-400	12.70	12.82	14.78	11.94	11.97	15.72	12.25	12.00	16.00
450-550	11.88	11.98	14.10	10.69	10.72	13.69	11.00	11.00	15.00
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	13.00	12.40	18.25	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Week ended		Chi- cago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kan- sas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indian- apolis	8- mkts. com- bined
AVERAGE COST -		Dollars per 100 pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 14, 1956	15.02	14.82	14.92	14.75	14.75	14.99	14.66	14.98	14.85
	Apr. 7, 1956	15.24	15.35	15.35	15.20	15.27	15.33	14.93	15.45	15.25
	Apr. 16, 1955	17.18	17.55	17.47	17.04	16.85	17.41	17.06	17.26	17.21
Sows	Apr. 14, 1956	12.77	12.59	12.45	12.56	12.44	12.75	12.62	11.96	12.52
	Apr. 7, 1956	12.89	12.57	12.45	13.04	12.92	12.92	12.41	12.19	12.64
	Apr. 16, 1955	15.14	15.08	15.06	14.68	14.66	15.11	14.67	14.32	14.78
AVERAGE WEIGHT -		Pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 14, 1956	233	218	219	226	232	216	222	223	223
	Apr. 7, 1956	235	220	220	226	231	216	222	222	223
	Apr. 16, 1955	244	221	230	244	248	228	230	225	233
Sows	Apr. 14, 1956	422	408	408	392	398	383	392	442	409
	Apr. 7, 1956	421	412	417	393	400	393	392	433	410
	Apr. 16, 1955	423	396	422	404	395	393	384	451	409
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 14, 1956	34768	60507	11447	30546	24697	24729	40766	40668	268128
	Apr. 7, 1956	30583	60594	11169	27938	18942	23688	44319	40380	257613
	Apr. 16, 1955	36975	46157	8476	34454	25687	23109	39359	43813	258030
Sows	Apr. 14, 1956	5433	3534	709	3628	1842	1596	4120	3903	24765
	Apr. 7, 1956	4689	3615	609	2954	1433	1481	3712	4060	22553
	Apr. 16, 1955	4148	2593	382	4139	2101	1622	4123	3762	22870
SOWS		Percentage of total								
	Apr. 14, 1956	14	6	6	11	7	6	9	9	8
	Apr. 7, 1956	13	6	5	10	7	6	8	9	8
	Apr. 16, 1955	10	5	4	11	8	7	9	8	8

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Apr. 14, 1956	16.70	15.18	+\$1.52
Apr. 7, 1956	17.20	15.36	+ 1.84
Apr. 16, 1955	19.35	17.72	+ 1.63

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Apr. 14, 1956	15.02	144.0	10.4
Apr. 7, 1956	15.24	141.3	10.8
Apr. 16, 1955	17.18	147.2	11.7

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Fran-cisco
LAMBS 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and	Apr. 14, 1956	21.10	20.05	22.38*	--	19.90	--	--
Prime	Apr. 7, 1956	20.95	20.60	22.22*	--	20.45	--	--
	Apr. 16, 1955	22.28	21.85	22.35*	--	21.12	--	21.25*
Good and	Apr. 14, 1956	20.22	18.95	20.88*	19.70*	18.92	17.25	19.25*
Choice	Apr. 7, 1956	20.25	19.70	20.80*	20.20*	19.28	17.25	--
	Apr. 16, 1955	21.38	21.02	20.75*	21.60*	20.02	19.50	17.50
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and	Apr. 14, 1956	7.75	6.00	5.25**	--	8.48	7.25	--
Choice	Apr. 7, 1956	7.75	6.50	5.25**	--	8.62	6.75	6.50
	Apr. 16, 1955	7.78	7.50	7.20	--	8.28	--	--
Cull and	Apr. 14, 1956	6.00	4.25	4.00**	--	5.92	4.75	--
Utility	Apr. 7, 1956	6.00	4.50	4.00**	--	6.00	4.50	4.50
	Apr. 16, 1955	6.62	5.50	5.95	--	6.00	--	3.75*
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and	Apr. 14, 1956	--	--	--	--	18.00	--	--
Choice	Apr. 7, 1956	--	--	--	--	17.90	--	--
	Apr. 16, 1955	--	20.00	--	--	--	--	15.00
*Spring lambs. **Shorn basis.								

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS

MARCH 1956 - with comparisons

(thousand head)

Region	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep & lambs
	1956	1955	1956	1955
N. Atlantic States.....	127	126	140	138
S. Atlantic States.....	44	42	28	25
N.C. States - Eastern..	325	312	225	233
N.C. States - N. Western	450	434	101	110
N.C. States - S. Western	155	149	27	28
S. Central States.....	149	158	79	79
Mountain States.....	106	106	7	8
Pacific States.....	210	198	39	38
Total.....	1,566	1,524	647	660
	6,327	5,491	1,216	1,244

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head): Mar. 1956, horses 16,258; goats 6,041; Mar. 1955, horses 19,673; goats 6,113.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW
Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Receipts of Western dressed fresh meats were reduced compared with the previous week. Unloads of steer beef, lamb and veal ranged from moderate to mostly normal, while available supplies of cow beef, calf and fresh pork were mostly moderate. Stocks of fresh meats usually exceeded current demand and daily clearances were incomplete. Trading was slow early, but developed to a fair degree after Wednesday. Volume buyers became active late, after buying somewhat cautiously early. Compared with Friday of the previous week: Steer, cow beef, and lamb mostly steady, in instances \$1.00 higher on selected lots; veal weak to \$2.00 lower; calf unchanged; pork loins \$2.00-3.00 lower, other fresh pork cuts steady to \$1.00 higher.

Prime steer carcass offerings were scarce, much of the supply consisting of average-Choice, with an increased volume of Good steer beef. Most carcasses weighed upward from 700#. Small advances were posted early on Choice 700-800# steer beef, largely as the result of strength on hindquarters. Late realizations, however, crowded the inside quotation, with the upturn partially lost as arm chucks and rounds sold lower.

Supply of calf was relatively small, but veal receipts were mostly normal and consisted mainly of Utility to average-Good carcasses. Stocks of calf carcasses cleared rather readily, but demand lagged for veal offerings. A fair-sized carry-over was expected. Old crop and spring lamb moved at steady to in instances higher prices, although spring lamb 50# and heavier reflected occasional weakness.

Buyers indicated little urgency toward purchase of primal pork cuts, and as a result moderately reduced receipts moved slowly and cleared under pressure. Demand for loins was not broad enough to sustain the early \$1.00 advance and prices declined.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Local slaughtering operations indicated fully normal production of beef, calf and lamb. Hog slaughter was reduced as a result of poor movement of fresh pork at wholesale levels. High-Choice and Prime rail stock was represented sparingly. Lamb kills consisted equally of old crop and spring lambs. Trading ranged from slow to moderately active. Prices on non-kosher wholesale beef cuts turned upward, and advances were fairly well sustained, while weakness featured trade for non-kosher veal and lamb. Demand for fresh pork lacked urgency, and sales were mainly on a weak basis. Trading in kosher channels was generally slow, with kosher beef and veal selling at weak to lower prices. Kosher lamb sold at unevenly steady to lower prices.

Supply of steer beef was fully normal on all sessions and local selling interests assumed firm price stands on all weights and grades. However, some weakness was evident on hindquarters at the close, with rounds moving out at declines of \$1.00 or more. A similar trend prevailed on arm chucks while other cuts sold at steady prices. Kosher steer beef sold at weak to lower prices.

Daily clearances of veal were incomplete as buyer interest lagged. Sales were made mostly under pressure, the practical top on hindsaddles being about \$3.00 below the previous week. Price trend on old crop and spring lamb reflected weakness until midweek when the general price structure firmed somewhat. Lamb chucks, however, continued slow and weak, with some sales on a peddling basis. Kosher lamb foresaddles encountered dependable outlets at minor price adjustments.

In a disappointingly slow trade, local hog slaughterers were forced to reduce killing operations. Loin prices were usually in line with those paid for Western offerings. Although bids were lower on loins, the reduction in slaughtering operations aided sellers and only minor price weakness was recorded.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Steer and heifer beef consisted mostly of low-Good to average-Choice grades, with other grades in relatively small volume. Veal and lamb graded mostly Choice and below, with the supply of spring lamb showing a seasonal increase. Volume of pork was only moderate but along with other meats appeared fully adequate for trade needs. Pork trade was slow at the week's opening with loin prices working lower. By Wednesday, however, all interests were back in the market, and early declines on 8-12# pork loins were largely regained. Small volume Prime carcass beef and equivalent cuts moved dependably, otherwise carcass beef trade was only moderately active. Choice and Prime rib and loin prices advanced while squarecut chucks and rounds held mostly steady. Slight advance top end of lamb quotation credited to higher wholesale costs early in the week rather than to expanded demand. In most quarters, lamb hindsaddles outsold fore-end cuts, with lamb stews and shoulders finding broader outlets than recently. Veal trading was slow. Volume accounts proved best outlets for fresh meat. However, trade in distributive channels was more active, particularly in pork than recently. Fairly good clearances are indicated. Compared with last Thursday's close: Prime beef steady, Good and Choice mostly 50¢ to \$1.00 lower, Commercial 50¢ higher; Prime veal \$1.00 higher, other grades steady to weak; lamb unevenly \$1.00 lower to \$1.00 higher; pork loins 8-12# and spareribs steady to 50¢ higher, other pork cuts 50¢ to \$1.50 lower. Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks made \$25.50-27.50; Prime rounds \$40.00-41.00, Choice \$38.00-39.50; Prime loins \$85.00-89.00, Choice \$65.00-68.00; Prime ribs \$56.00-59.00, Choice \$40.00-44.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks \$28.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles and lamb legs brought \$51.00-56.00, and \$49.00-52.00, respectively loins \$58.00-65.00; hotel ribs \$48.00-52.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supply of steer carcasses was liberal at most points on the West Coast. Cow carcasses were less plentiful but fully adequate while supply of veal carcasses was moderate to small and calf rather limited. Spring lamb carcasses were in liberal supply. Fresh and cured pork was fully adequate, with smoked skinned hams and bacon excessive in spots. Trading in California was fair early but slowed down later due to rain and inclement weather coupled with reduced consumer demand. Trading in the Northwest was slow most of the week. Prices compared with last Friday: Steer beef mostly strong to \$1.00 higher; cow steady to \$1.00 higher at most points; veal and calf mostly steady, except veal \$2.00 lower at San Francisco; spring lamb steady to \$1.00 lower; fresh pork loins largely weak to \$2.00 lower, instances \$1.00 higher at Los Angeles; fresh skinned hams and smoked skinned hams steady to \$1.00 lower; shoulders \$1.00-2.00 higher at Los Angeles and \$2.00 lower at San Francisco; other pork cuts and lard mostly steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# cashed from \$34.00-36.00, few under 600# \$37.00 at San Francisco; 700-800# \$31.00-34.00; Good 500-700# \$30.00-34.00; bulk Commercial cow beef \$24.00-30.00; Utility \$23.00-28.00; Canner and Cutter \$21.00-25.00.

Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought mostly \$37.00-42.00 in California and \$40.00-48.00 in the Northwest; Good and Choice calf under 300# \$34.00-38.00 in California only, some Commercial down to \$29.00 at Los Angeles. Choice and Prime spring lamb carcasses under 55# sold from \$37.00-41.00 in California, \$38.00-45.00 in the Northwest. Pork loins under 16# brought \$41.00-45.00, few to \$48.00 at Seattle; fresh skinned hams under 18# \$44.00-50.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# \$47.00-54.00; slab bacon under 10# \$30.00-44.00; sliced 1# packages of bacon \$36.00-45.00; smoked picnics under 8# \$27.00-34.00; lard in 1# cartons \$13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16	14	Apr.	16
	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
Beef -									
Steer -									
Prime 600-700#	41.50	41.50	--	39.00	38.90	49.40	--	--	--
700-800	40.00	40.00	49.10	39.00	38.90	49.40	--	--	--
Choice 500-600	--	--	--	33.75	34.05	39.60	36.00	35.00	40.50
600-700	35.50	35.50	41.50	33.75	34.05	41.30	34.00	33.00	39.50
Good 350-600	32.00	31.75	37.00	31.10	30.70	36.10	33.00	32.00	37.00
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	32.50	28.30	27.90	32.50	30.00	29.00	34.00
Cow, all wts. -									
Commercial	27.75	27.25	29.50	--	--	--	27.50	26.50	29.50
Utility	25.50	25.00	26.50	--	--	--	25.00	24.00	25.50
Veal -									
Prime 80-110#	41.00	41.00	39.00	42.10	41.50	43.00	--	--	--
Choice " "	35.60	36.50	35.20	37.00	36.80	39.10	--	--	43.00
Good " "	28.90	29.50	32.20	34.00	33.80	36.80	41.00	43.00	41.00
Lamb -									
Prime 40-50#	40.00	39.30	42.70	40.30	39.40	44.50	40.00*	40.40*	43.40*
50-60	38.50	37.70	41.00	39.00	37.40	42.00	--	--	--
Choice 40-50	40.00	39.30	42.70	40.30	39.40	43.00	39.00*	38.80*	43.40*
50-60	38.50	37.70	41.00	39.00	37.40	39.50	--	--	--
Good all wts.	36.00	36.20	39.40	38.00	36.90	38.20	36.00*	--	--
Pork - Fresh -									
Loins 8-10# av.	39.90	41.30	45.40	38.15	40.00	43.80	45.00	45.00	51.00
10-12 "	39.90	41.30	45.40	38.15	40.00	43.80	45.70	46.00	49.00
12-16 "	38.70	40.70	43.30	37.60	39.50	42.35	45.00	45.00	48.00
Butts 4-8 "	33.00	33.20	35.00	28.50	29.35	32.60	36.00	36.00	41.00
Pork - Cured -									
Hams, smk., skd. -									
12-16# av.	50.50	49.50	50.00	52.65	52.45	51.40	51.00	51.00	53.00
16-18 "	48.50	46.10	43.30	51.50	51.55	49.65	50.00	50.00	50.00
18-20 "	--	--	--	51.15	50.70	49.00	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab -									
6-8# av.	--	--	--	33.45	31.35	45.65	38.00	38.00	53.00
8-10 "	33.50	32.50	39.00	32.00	30.30	42.95	36.00	36.00	46.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	39.50	38.00	50.00	38.05	36.35	50.90	40.00	40.00	51.00
Picnics, smoked -									
4-8# av.	27.00	25.50	32.50	30.05	29.50	35.10	30.00	30.00	35.20
Backs, D. S. -									
16-20# av.	13.50	15.00	14.00	11.75	11.75	11.35	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons -									
Refined	16.25	16.00	16.50	14.95	14.75	15.75	17.25	17.25	18.10
Substitutes	--	--	--	--	--	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

*Spring lamb.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Turnover of greasy domestic worsted wool in the Boston market amounted to about 11 cars of various combing wools. Prices remained unchanged with vertical mills the principal buyers. Scoured wools moved slowly with prices unchanged for good to choice wools, while undertone was weak on poor style scoured wools. Noils remained quiet at about the same prices as the previous week. Trading in the West was slow. However, a little wool was purchased in Texas and scattered sections of New Mexico and California. There was little activity in the fleece wool States.

Cabled reports at midweek showed Australian quotations advanced $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent, with all sections active. Continental interests and Japan bought freely and Bradford moderately. Long South African wools showed an upward tendency while short wools were very firm under good general competition. South American markets continued quiet. New Zealand auctions will resume on April 21.

Fleece Wools: Ohio high half-blood graded 62/64s good French combing and staple wool sold at \$1.18, clean basis, while graded 56/58s good French combing and staple, around 53¢ in the grease, brought \$1.00-1.02 and 50/54s moved at 95¢ and 96¢, clean. Country buyers were offering from 42-44¢, grease basis, to the grower.

Territory Wools: Spot territory wools were limited and slow to move. A sizable volume of original bag fine Roswell wools sold in New Mexico at grease prices ranging from 39-44-1/8¢, with clean prices around \$1.25, delivered Boston. Twelve-months wools in the San Joaquin Valley of California sold at 32¢ for heavy shrinking wool and 48¢ for yearling. About 4,000 fleeces around Tracy brought 46½-47½¢. Clean, delivered prices for fine wool was estimated around \$1.20-1.25, Boston.

Texas Wools: Spot greasy eight-months Texas wool sold around \$1.18, clean basis. Occasional lots of twelve-months wools were purchased in Texas around \$1.25, clean basis, delivered.

Mohair: A fair weight of mohair sold for export at 86½¢ for adult to the warehouse. Other lots brought 86½¢ for adult and 96½¢ for kid hair, but demand for kid was at a minimum.

Sales of CCC Wools: The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on April 12, 1956 that approximately 163,000 pounds of C.C.C. owned wools were sold from bids received on a total of about 3,352,000 pounds. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price
Graded territory fine staple and Good French	24,715	\$1.30
Graded territory 1/4 blood staple & good French 48/50s	57,431	1.06
Graded territory 1/4 blood staple & good French 50/54s	30,000	1.001
Graded fine 1/4 blood staple & good French 48/50s	4,606	.98
Scoured shorn woolen type 12 months 58s	11,000	.93125

Foreign Wools: The movement of spot foreign wools was practically at a standstill. A greasy South African 8/10 months 64/70s sold for shipment around \$1.35-1.36, clean basis, duty paid, while greasy Australian 60/58s twelve months fleeces brought around \$1.29, clean basis, duty paid for shipment. Cabled quotations at week's end follow:

<u>Australian</u>		<u>South African</u>		<u>New Zealand</u>	
Type 55	\$1.36	22	\$1.26	Auctions closed	
56	1.30	23	1.23	<u>Montevideo grease basis</u>	
57	1.23	27	1.20	(In bond)	
422	1.13	28	1.18	64/60s	\$.64
423	1.06	32	1.17	60s	.66½
424	.96	33	1.15	58/60s	.66½
425	.89				

Above quotes based on clean U. S. yields, in bond.

MEATS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED
UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Product	Week ended			
	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.
	10	17	24	31
	1956	1956	1956	1956
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Placed in cure -				
Beef.	4,358	3,157	2,984	2,908
Pork.	79,435	77,346	68,591	64,379
Other	28	33	23	28
Smoked and/or dried -				
Beef.	1,166	883	1,040	987
Pork.	52,847	58,567	62,351	49,778
Cooked meat -				
Beef.	1,409	1,379	1,327	1,325
Pork.	7,175	8,542	8,639	6,463
Other	156	65	65	72
Sausage -				
Fresh finished.	5,130	4,905	4,906	4,844
To be dried or semi-dried . .	2,687	2,483	2,214	2,502
Franks, wieners	11,434	10,557	10,875	11,242
Other, smoked or cooked . . .	11,492	10,936	10,933	10,539
Loaf, head cheese, chili, jellied products.	4,298	4,211	3,476	3,369
Steaks, chops, roasts	14,336	13,435	13,091	12,661
Meat extract.	31	10	1	9
Sliced bacon.	19,199	17,802	18,874	18,919
Sliced, other	2,978	3,227	3,005	3,038
Hamburger	2,851	2,715	2,866	2,730
Miscellaneous meat product. . .	1,633	1,840	1,284	1,279
Lard, rendered.	54,817	49,361	42,181	42,257
Lard, refined	38,291	38,735	34,536	33,317
Oleo stock.	1,959	1,824	1,797	1,855
Edible tallow	3,808	4,213	3,833	3,899
Rendered pork fat -				
Rendered.	2,718	2,553	2,224	2,599
Refined	1,179	1,333	1,272	1,068
Compound containing animal fat.	14,773	13,413	11,354	11,607
Oleomargarine " " "	1,547	1,356	1,025	996
Canned products (for civilian use and Dept. of Defense)	59,407	54,783	54,028	54,041
Total 1/.	401,142	389,662	368,793	348,709

1/ This figure represents "inspection pounds" as some of the products may have been inspected and recorded more than once due to having been subjected to more than one distinct processing treatment, such as curing first, then canning.

MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION -- Continued

1325

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, MARCH 31, 1956

Warehouse stocks of red meats at 873 million pounds were down 7 percent from average March 31 holdings but up 5 percent from the stocks of a year earlier. Commodity-wise, stocks of beef decreased during the month by 10 million pounds-- the average is 16 million--to 186 million pounds by March 31. These holdings were about average but were 31 percent greater than those of a year earlier. Holdings of pork were down 6 million pounds to 512 million on March 31. Pork holdings were increased 12 million pounds during March last year and by 3 million during the 5-year average period. Present stocks of 512 million pounds compare with the average of 600 million pounds and 544 million on March 31, 1955.

UNITED STATES STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, MAR. 31, 1956, WITH COMPARISONS

(Includes holdings in public, private and semi-private
cold storage houses and meat packing plants)

Commodity	Mar. 31 1956	Feb. 29 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 31 1951-55 av.	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 31 1955	% of 5-yr. av.
BEEF:	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#			
Frozen.....	176,004	186,109	133,364	176,767	95	132	100
In cure, cured & smkd.	9,950	10,209	8,479	10,589	97	117	94
Total.....	185,954	196,318	141,843	187,356	95	131	99
PORK:							
Frozen.....	397,912	384,262	400,013	407,671	104	99	98
Dry salt, in cure and cured.....	29,263	29,593	38,643	46,083	99	76	64
Other, in cure, cured and smoked.....	84,952	104,136	105,047	146,562	82	81	58
Total.....	512,127	517,991	543,703	600,316	99	94	85
OTHER MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS:							
Sausage & sausage room products.....	15,206	15,593	13,888	16,439	98	109	92
Frozen lamb & mutton	10,042	10,060	9,089	12,220	100	110	82
Frozen veal.....	16,738	16,476	12,713	13,479	102	132	124
Canned meats & meat products.....	70,859	63,347	58,890	52,381	112	120	135
All edible offal....	62,143	64,244	54,444	58,254	97	114	107
Total other meats & meat products.....	174,988	169,720	149,024	152,773	103	117	115
Total all meats.....	873,069	884,029	834,570	940,445	99	105	93
Lard, rendered & refined 1/.....	2/	209,885	137,357	151,304	--	--	--
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS 3/							
Pork.....	4,724	8,412	9,973	2/	56	47	--
Beef.....	5,293	6,307	5,655	2/	84	94	--

1/ In dry and cold storage as reported by Bureau of Census.

2/ Not available.

3/ Government holdings are included in the totals and consist of reported stocks held by U.S.D.A., the Armed Services and other Government agencies.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED APRIL 1, 1956

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 14 major feeding States on April 1 was estimated at 4,231,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was a decrease of 8 percent from the previous year and compares with a decrease of less than 1 percent in these 14 States on January 1. The April 1 number is 16 percent below the number on January 1, 1956. The number placed on feed in these States during the January-March period was 3 percent less than for the corresponding period last year, while marketings of fed cattle were 13 percent larger.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on April 1 was estimated at 3,360,000 head -- 9 percent less than a year earlier, but 12 percent below the 3,825,000 on feed January 1. In the 11 Corn Belt States, including an allowance for Michigan and Wisconsin, the number on feed was 8 percent less than on April 1, 1955. Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin were the only Corn Belt States showing an increase in cattle on feed from a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves, during the period January-March, into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were 7 percent smaller than for the same period a year ago.

In California, the number of cattle on feed April 1 totaled 297,000 head, compared with 489,000 on feed January 1 and 318,000 on feed April 1, 1955. The number on feed in Idaho was 118,000 compared with 150,000 on feed January 1 and 102,000 on feed April 1 a year ago. Colorado had 193,000 on feed April 1, compared with 235,000 on January 1 and 220,000 on April 1 last year. Arizona feed lots had 170,000 on feed, compared with 204,000 on January 1 and 155,000 on April 1 last year. Texas cattle feeders had 93,000 on feed April 1, 147,000 on Jan. 1, and 84,000 on April 1 a year earlier.

Data for the 14 States reveal that the number on feed over 3 months is 11 percent below last year, while those on feed less than 3 months show a decrease of 2 percent. As a percent of total on feed, the number on feed less than 3 months was 38 percent, compared with 36 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3-6 months represented 57 percent of the total, compared with 60 percent last year. About 5 percent of the total had been on feed more than 6 months compared with 4 percent last year.

Estimates by weight groups and kind of cattle on feed this year indicate less interest in feeding calves and light weight cattle than last year. The number of cattle weighing under 600# was down 14 percent compared with last year; those weighing from 600-900 pounds were down 10 percent, while cattle weighing over 900 pounds were up slightly. Cattle weighing under 600 pounds comprised 22 percent of the total number on feed, compared with 23 percent a year earlier; those weighing 600-900 pounds were 46 percent of the total compared with 48 percent last year; while those weighing over 900 pounds were 32 percent against 29 percent last year.

Steers represented 62 percent of the total -- the same as last year; heifers, 20 percent this year, and 19 percent last year; calves, 17 percent and 18 percent; cows and other cattle, 1 percent both years. Cattle feeders intend to market fed cattle at a faster rate than intended a year ago, with 51 percent of the April 1 number to be marketed by July 1. A year earlier feeders intended to market 49 percent by July 1. About 19 percent are expected to be marketed in April this year, compared with 16 percent last year; 18 percent in May compared with 17 percent last year; and 14 percent in June and 16 percent last year.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates as of April 1 are published in this release for the 1950-55 period. These revisions are based on a review of current data obtained from cattle feeders along with data relating to movements of feeder cattle and marketings of fed cattle which were not available at the time current estimates were made. Prior to 1955, quantitative estimates of cattle on feed April 1 were made for only 5 States.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED APRIL 1, 1950-55 1/

State	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head	head	head
Illinois	418	405	458	540	545	605
Iowa	914	941	969	1,163	1,198	1,306
Nebraska	395	400	408	551	534	588
Total 3 States	1,727	1,746	1,835	2,254	2,277	2,499
Idaho	55	62	57	75	85	102
California	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	211	206	318
Total 5 States	--	--	--	2,540	2,568	2,919

1/ Estimates include only cattle being fattened for market as a more or less distinct agricultural enterprise, and excludes small operations incidental to dairy and general farming. Cattle thus fed are presumed to produce carcasses that will grade good or better. 2/ Not available.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY CLASSES, APRIL 1, 1955 AND 1956

State	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Cows and other
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head
Ohio	111	110	20	23
Indiana	139	142	55	68
Illinois	405	362	73	104
Minnesota	191	171	44	64
Iowa	849	815	196	188
Missouri	94	127	46	37
South Dakota	106	80	30	22
Nebraska	341	237	129	86
Kansas	89	48	46	30
9 N. C. States	2,325	2,092	639	622
Texas	44	53	23	18
Idaho	72	76	23	26
Colorado	103	99	95	81
Arizona	89	88	26	43
California	236	220	54	62
14 States	2,869	2,628	860	852

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N. C. States	63	62	17	18	19	19	1
14 States	62	62	19	20	18	17	1

Stocker and feeder cattle and sheep received in several Corn Belt States 1/
March 1956, with comparisons

329

Cattle and calves

State	Public stock		Direct		Total		Cumulative Total	
	yards							
	March		March		March		January-March incl.	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Ohio	8,373	5,558	1,509	1,207	9,882	6,765	29,181	22,236
Indiana	8,460	9,071	1,930	3,353	10,390	12,424	22,925	28,299
Illinois	18,607	20,339	22,640	18,065	41,247	38,404	153,652	146,289
Michigan	2,100	2,200	1,635	673	3,735	2,873	11,523	10,053
Wisconsin	832	520	1,039	303	1,871	823	5,776	2,155
Minnesota	6,940	10,834	9,837	8,251	16,777	19,085	53,328	56,160
Iowa	48,017	50,169	26,442	26,927	74,459	77,096	233,092	235,698
South Dakota	4,434	7,993	1,330	1,781	5,764	9,774	19,653	29,742
Nebraska	18,585	31,441	13,723	13,530	32,308	44,971	99,043	146,699
Total								
9 States	116,348	138,125	80,085	74,090	196,433	212,215	628,173	677,331

Sheep and lambs

Ohio	327	621	4,432	1,031	4,759	1,652	7,976	10,230
Indiana	953	442	---	1,237	953	1,679	4,535	7,906
Illinois	3,134	3,500	7,542	4,635	10,676	8,135	36,489	37,296
Michigan	788	326	470	180	1,258	506	3,328	4,112
Wisconsin	276	837	---	---	276	837	1,511	3,366
Minnesota	7,440	9,138	3,301	4,049	10,741	13,187	49,658	64,084
Iowa	19,632	8,052	38,679	43,001	58,311	51,053	203,674	194,377
South Dakota	2,322	3,142	2,767	11,146	5,089	14,288	25,442	41,939
Nebraska	10,159	8,564	36,834	20,099	46,993	28,663	87,620	117,748
Total								
9 States	45,031	34,622	94,025	85,378	139,056	120,000	420,233	481,058

1/ Data in this report are obtained from offices of State Veterinarians. Under "Public Stockyards" are included stockers and feeders which were bought at stockyards markets. Under "Direct" are included stockers and feeders coming from other States from points other than public stockyards, some of which are inspected at public stockyards while stopping for feed, water, and rest en route.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
Agricultural Estimates Division
Washington, D. C.

 LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 311

the same grades cleared from \$17.00-19.50. Mostly Choice 114# fall shorn lambs reached \$20.25 at Chicago, while some freshly shorn lambs sold at \$15.50-16.00. Cull to Choice shorn ewes brought \$3.00-7.00, a few Choice woolled ewes reaching \$8.50. Good and Choice feeder lambs sold from \$15.00-17.50, a few new crop feeders selling up to \$19.50.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Increased receipts of slaughter cattle encountered only fair demand and prices declined at most markets. Except for a firm tone at Spokane, fed steers and heifers closed steady to 50¢ lower, with a similar trend on cows. Vealers and slaughter calves sold steady to \$1.00 lower at most points; barrows and gilts steady to 50¢ lower. Old crop slaughter lambs were 25-50¢ lower at Denver and 50¢-\$1.00 off at Portland. Stocker and feeder cattle closed firm to 50¢ higher.

Scattered loads of high-Choice steers brought \$20.75-21.00 at Far West terminals, high-Good to average-Choice \$19.00-20.50, bulk Good steers \$17.00-18.50. Good and Choice heifers cleared from \$16.00-19.50, a few loads average to high-Choice \$19.65-20.00 at Denver. Utility and Commercial cows bulked from \$11.50-14.50. Good and Choice vealers earned \$19.00-25.00, some Choice in the Northwest \$26.00-28.50. Stocker and feeder steers grading Good and Choice brought \$16.50-18.90, a load of Choice fleshy feeders at Los Angeles \$19.25. Prices for Good and Choice stocker and feeder heifers ranged mostly from \$14.50-17.80. Stock steer calves of the same grades brought \$17.50-20.00, some Choice to \$21.00 at Denver, a load of Choice 210# steer calves reaching \$21.50 at Los Angeles.

Good and Choice slaughter steers at California feedlots sold for immediate delivery from \$19.50-21.00; about 500 head Commercial and Good steers \$17.50-18.25; Good and Choice fed heifers \$18.00-19.00, 170 head of 811# grass heifers for delivery to packers this week \$17.00; mostly Commercial grass heifers \$14.00-15.00. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers sold or were contracted from \$17.00-18.00; heifers \$15.00-16.00, 200 head 650# heifers for near-term delivery at \$16.10.

Mixed U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts closed at \$16.50 at S. San Francisco; \$16.00-17.00 at Los Angeles; \$16.50-17.50 at Portland; \$16.25 at Spokane; \$15.00-15.75 at Ogden; \$15.50-16.25 at Denver. Choice 89-111# woolled slaughter lambs brought \$19.75-20.00 at Denver, one load \$20.25; Good and Choice spring lambs \$19.00-20.50, one load Choice and Prime \$22.00 at Denver. Spring lambs sold or were contracted in California from \$19.00-20.00, 3200 in the San Joaquin Valley at \$20.00 for immediate delivery, about 6000 in the Sacramento Valley at the same price for around mid-May delivery.